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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7254
INFO RUEHZS/ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS PRIORITY
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY 1683
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING PRIORITY 7127
RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL PRIORITY 5562
RUEHBY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA PRIORITY 9749
RUEHOT/AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY 7608
RUEHWL/AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON PRIORITY 0001
RUEHCHI/AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI PRIORITY 6655
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RHHMUNA/CDR USPACOM HONOLULU HI PRIORITY
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RUEKDIA/DIA WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY

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SIPDIS
SENSITIVE

DEPARTMENT FOR EAP/MLS AND DRL - CAMPONOVO

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [KDEM](#) [TH](#)
SUBJECT: THAILAND DECLINES REQUEST TO HOST ASIA PACIFIC
DEMOCRACY PARTNERSHIP SOM

REF: A. 08 BANGKOK 3099
[1](#)B. 08 BANGKOK 1254

[1](#)1. (SBU) On June 9, the Thai MFA informed the ROK Embassy in Bangkok that the RTG was unwilling to host the Asia Pacific Democracy Partnership (APDP) Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) and assume the APDP chairmanship in 2010. The RTG claimed that its other international obligations, including preparation for the ASEAN Plus 3 Summit in October and its impending application for membership on the UN Human Rights Council, precluded the RTG from assuming APDP responsibilities. Additionally, the MFA indicated to the ROK Embassy that it lacked adequate funding for APDP obligations. Our ROK Embassy contact told us she remained optimistic that this decision, which was made at the Director General level, might be overturned by higher-ranking MFA officials. She expected Seoul would request the Embassy to press the RTG to reconsider, but she had not yet received instructions.

[1](#)2. (SBU) Separately, an MFA official confirmed to us the ROK Embassy's account of the RTG position, including that the decision was made at the DG level, and did not indicate that the MFA planned to consider the issue further. Our MFA contact emphasized that, while the RTG is enthusiastic about becoming a full member of APDP, it believed the request that Thailand serve as chair was premature, especially since, per the MFA's understanding, Thailand only holds observer status at the present time. Our MFA contact further expressed concern she and her colleagues did not fully understand the role of the APDP chair.
ENTWISTLE